

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS, EAGR, PINS, MARR, PINT, PARM, OTRA,

SUBJECT: ARA WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS JULY 19-26

1. AMBASSADOR VAKY:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY WAS SWORN IN FRIDAY, JULY 21,
IN THE PRESENCE OF A LARGE GROUP OF OBSERVERS FROM ARA,
OTHER BUREAUS OF THE DEPARTMENT, GUESTS AND FRIENDS.
SECRETARY VANCE PRESIDED.

2. US DELEGATION TO COLOMBIAN PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION:

TREASURY SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL WILL LEAD THE US DELEGATION
TO THE INAUGURATION OF COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT JULIO CESAR
TURBAY AYALA ON AUGUST 7.

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ON JULY 25, THE WHITE HOUSE ISSUED A PRESIDENTIAL PRO-
CLAMATION TO THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO ON THE OCCASION
OF PUERTO RICO'S 80TH YEAR UNDER THE U.S. FLAG AND THE
260 YEAR OF THE FOUNDING OF THE COMMONWEALTH. THE
PROCLAMATION UNDERLINED PRESIDENT CARTER'S SUPPORT FOR
THE PRINCIPLE THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN PUERTO RICO AND

U.S. MUST BE BASED ON THE FREE AND VOLUNTARY CHOICE OF

PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE. IT STATED THAT, SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO DECIDE TO HOLD ANOTHER REFERENDUM ON ITS FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS, THE PRESIDENT WILL SUPPORT WHATEVER DECISION THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO REACH. HOPEFULLY THIS ACTION WILL ENABLE US AGAIN TO DEFLECT A SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTION IN THE C-24 CHARACTERIZING PUERTO RICO AS A US COLONY.

4. ARA PREPARING INITIAL SUBMISSION FOR FY 1980 SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:
ARA IS CURRENTLY PREPARING THE INITIAL SUBMISSION FOR THE FY 1980 SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. AS WE DID LAST YEAR, THE PROGRAM WILL CONFORM TO ZERO BASE BUDGETING PROCEDURES. REPLIES FROM THE FIELD TO STATE 167901 ARE BEING INCORPORATED INTO THE ARA SUBMISSIONS. WE FACE AN EXTREMELY TIGHT DEADLINE OF AUGUST 7TH FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS TO BE PROVIDED TO THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WORKING GROUP. PROGRAMS ARE BEING PREPARED FOR:

BARBADOS (IMETP ONLY), BOLIVIA, COLOMBIA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, GUATEMALA, GUYANA (IMETP ONLY), HAITI, HONDURAS, PANAMA, PERU, PANAMA AND VENEZUELA (IMETP ONLY).

5. COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN LATIN CONFIDENTIAL

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AMERICA:
USDA AND AID ARE CONTINUING TO ASSIST IN COUNTERING AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN LATIN AMERICA. VETERINARIANS OF THE ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE HELPED BRAZIL IN THE OUTBREAK THERE IN JUNE, ATTENDED A LATIN AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF VETERINARIANS IN LIMA JULY 13-14, ASSISTED THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN JULY, AND ARE NOW AT WORK IN HAITI, WHERE CASES ARE SUSPECTED. A SEMINAR ON DIAGNOSIS OF THE DISEASE WAS HELD AT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S ANIMAL DISEASE CENTER IN PLUM ISLAND, NEW YORK, THE WEEK OF JULY 17. ANOTHER SEMINAR FOR CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN VETERINARIANS IS SCHEDULED AUGUST 1-3. AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IS HIGHLY INFECTIOUS AND IS MOST COMMONLY TRANSMITTED BY CONTACT WITH AFFECTED ANIMALS OR THROUGH FOOD RESIDUE; E.G., AIRLINE GARBAGE CONTAINING INADEQUATELY COOKED, AFFECTED PORK. NO INOCULATIONS OR TREATMENTS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED, AND THE COUNTERMEASURES ARE TO PREVENT ENTRY OF THE DISEASE AND TO DESTROY AFFECTED OR EXPOSED ANIMALS. THE MORTALITY RATE IS EXTREMELY HIGH AND THE DISEASE, IF NOT CONTROLLED, CAN SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE SUPPLY OF PORK AND THE ECONOMY OF AREAS WHERE HOG-RAISING IS A PROMINENT INDUSTRY. HUMAN BEINGS ARE IMMUNE. ACCURATE AND EARLY

DIAGNOSIS, WHICH IS DIFFICULT, IS A KEY TO EFFECTIVE

COUNTERMEASURES. US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SPECIALISTS ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT THE DISEASE CAME SEPARATELY TO BRAZIL AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FROM SOUTHERN EUROPE OR AFRICA, AND REACHED SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTIONS BEFORE IT WAS ACCURATELY DIAGNOSED. DIAGNOSES CAN BE MADE MOST EXPEDITIOUSLY BY SENDING TISSUE SAMPLES TO PLUM ISLAND. SUCCESS THEN DEPENDS UPON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT COORDINATION, WHICH FEW IF ANY LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS ARE AT PRESENT ABLE TO PROVIDE, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE MANY EXCELLENT VETERINARIANS. UNLESS A GOVERNMENT CAN MOBILIZE AN EFFECTIVE NATION-WIDE COORDINATION, ASSISTANCE BY US VETERINARY SPECIALISTS IS OF LIMITED EFFECT.
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6. ARA WEEKLY ISSUE - THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIZATION
IN LATIN AMERICA:

IN A NUMBER OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, THERE IS AN ENCOURAGING OPENING UP OF THE POLITICAL PROCESS, A TRANSITION AWAY FROM THE LARGELY AUTHORITARIAN POLITICAL STRUCTURES WHICH HAVE EXISTED -- IN MANY CASES FOR THEIR ENTIRE HISTORY -- TOWARD MORE BROADLY BASED, PARTICIPATORY SYSTEMS. IN SOME COUNTRIES THIS PROCESS IS IN AN EARLY STAGE; IN A FEW, THERE ARE RISKS THE PROCESS IS RACING AHEAD AT WHAT MAY BE AN UNSUSTAINABLE PACE.

BOLIVIA, ECUADOR AND PERU HAVE HELD ELECTIONS AS PART OF AN EVOLUTION FROM MILITARY RULE TO MORE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT; VOTERS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND GUATEMALA WERE PROVIDED A REAL CHOICE OF PERSONALITIES AND PARTY PLATFORMS; AND DEVELOPMENTS IN BRAZIL SUGGEST A GRADUAL OPENING MAY BE UNDERWAY THERE, ALTHOUGH ITS EXTENT AND ULTIMATE FORM ARE FAR FROM CERTAIN. EVEN IN PARAGUAY AND NICARAGUA, WHERE THERE HAVE BEEN SERIOUS ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS, SOME MOVEMENT TO BROADEN THE RANGE OF PERMISSIBLE POLITICAL ACTIVITY HAS TAKEN PLACE. IN ALL OF THESE COUNTRIES, NATIONAL CHOICES AND LEADERSHIP POSSIBILITIES ARE INCREASINGLY BEING DEBATED AND DISCUSSED.

IN LATIN AMERICA, THIS DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS IS COMPLICATED BY A NUMBER OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS INHIBITING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNDERLYING INSTITUTIONS AND VALUES WHICH SUPPORT DEMOCRACY. IT IS MADE DIFFICULT IN MANY INSTANCES BY HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT; SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMBALANCES CAUSED BY HIGH RATES OF POPULATION GROWTH AND URBANIZATION; AND BY A TRADITION OF NATIONAL LEADERSHIP WHICH HAS EXERCISED AUTHORITY BY APPEALING TO VERY NARROW POWER
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ELITES, USUALLY THE RICH.

BOLIVIA IS AN EXAMPLE. A MAJORITY OF ITS PEOPLE ARE UNAS-
SIMILATED INDIANS RULED BY A SMALL WESTERNIZED ELITE.
TWO-THIRDS OF THE POPULATION, MOST OF WHOM SUBSIST ON
INCOMES BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL, CAN NEITHER READ NOR
WRITE. GUATEMALA, PARAGUAY, PERU AND ECUADOR ARE SIMILAR.

UNFORTUNATELY PRESS AND PUBLIC ATTENTION HAS THUS FAR
TENDED TO FOCUS NOT ON THE OPENING-UP PROCESS BUT ON THE
ELECTIONS THEMSELVES. BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE AND WEAKNESS
OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND TRADITIONS, THE ELECTORAL
PROCESS IS OFTEN MARRED BY FRAUD AND OTHER IRREGULARITIES.
THE REAL SIGNIFICANCE, IT SEEMS TO US, LIES IN LARGE PART
IN THE DECISION TO HAVE ELECTIONS AND THE EVOLUTION OF MORE
OPEN POLITICAL PROCESSES. THE DECISION ON THE PART OF
THE MILITARY AND TRADITIONAL ELITE TO HOLD AN ELECTION
REFLECTS A RECOGNITION THAT THE LEGITIMACY OF GOVERNMENT
IS BASED ON POPULAR PARTICIPATION, COMPETITION -- OF IDEAS
AND INDIVIDUALS -- AND POPULAR CHOICE. THIS ITSELF IS A
MAJOR VICTORY FOR OUR IDEALS.

ONCE UNDERWAY, THE PROCESS TENDS BOTH TO PERMIT AND TO
STIMULATE THE NATIONAL DEBATE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. POLITICAL PARTIES ARE FORMED,
INFORMATION MEDIA ARE GIVEN AN INCREASED MEASURE OF
FREEDOM, INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS ARE GUARANTEED ADDITIONAL PRO-
TECTION AND OFTEN A NEUTRAL QUASI-JUDICIAL COMMISSION IS
CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF JUDGING THE OPENNESS
AND FAIRNESS OF THE ELECTORAL EXERCISE. GIVEN THE MULTI-
PLICITY OF THE INHERENT DIFFICULTIES, IT IS NOT SURPRISING
THAT THE PROCESS OFTEN RESULTS IN FRUSTRATION.

IN INTERPRETING EVENTS, WE SHOULD NOT PERMIT OUR
DISAPPOINTMENT OVER ONE ASPECT OF THE PROCESS -- A FLAWED
ELECTION, FOR EXAMPLE -- TO DEFLECT US FROM OUR EFFORTS
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TO DEVELOP POLICIES AND TAKE ACTIONS WHICH SUPPORT THE
FURTHER EVOLUTION OF THE PROCESS BY ENCOURAGING AND
STRENGTHENING THE EMERGING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. VANCE

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